

REMARKS

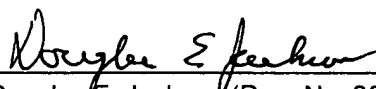
By this Amendment, the claims have been rewritten to reduce the multiple dependencies and to place the claims in better conformance with US practice.

Further and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

STITES & HARBISON, PLLC

Date: 2/25/05


Douglas E. Jackson (Reg. No. 28518) For
David W. Nagle Jr. (Reg. No. 42,923)

400 West Market Street, Suite 1800, Louisville, Kentucky 40202
(502) 681-0321

ATTACHMENT A
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (original) Handheld apparatus for checking the tension of a wire, including: a support having two spaced pegs rigidly secured thereto; a spring mounted on the support between the two pegs; the spring and the pegs being arranged such that a wire passing in a predetermined path over and/or under the spring and the pegs is deflected from its normal position and exerts a pressure on the spring in a predetermined direction; a displacement measuring device associated with the spring and adapted to measure the displacement of the spring when a wire is in said predetermined path; preprogrammed computing means electrically connected to the displacement measuring device and adapted to display upon a read out a reading for the tension upon the wire when the wire is in said predetermined path; the computing means being connectable to a fully portable electrical power source.

2. (original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each peg is independently selected from the group consisting of: protrusion, notch, hook, slot.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a housing for the fully portable electrical power source is incorporated in the support.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-3~~claim 1, wherein both pegs lie in the same plane, at the same level in that plane, and the spring is at a higher level than the pegs in that plane.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-3~~claim 1, wherein the pegs are at different levels in the same plane.

6. (original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said predetermined path for a wire to be tested is under the lower peg and over the upper peg, passing over the upper surface of the spring.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the support is an elongated member with a handle portion at one end, the length of the handle portion being inclined at an acute angle to the length of the remainder of the support.

8. (original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least the handle portion of the support is hollow to provide a housing for the fully portable electrical power source.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7 ~~or claim 8~~, wherein the pegs are spaced along the length of the support, and are secured to the support at different levels in a plane parallel to the plane of the support.

10. (original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9 wherein at least one of said pegs is a hook.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1 wherein the spring has a flexibility in the range 0.0016 mm/Newton-0.043 mm/Newton.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1 wherein the displacement measuring device is selected from the group consisting of: strain gauge, load cell, potentiometer (linear or rotary), encoder (linear or rotary).

13. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-11~~claim 1, wherein the displacement measuring device comprises a strain gauge secured to that surface of the spring which is not contacted by the wire in use.